



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-6700
Facsimile: 651-228-3220

Hamline, Victoria, and Western Station Area Planning Steering Committee December 16, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Members Present: Terri Thao, Brenda Bailey, Jeanette Blankenship, Hall Clapp, Amber Dallman, Ultan Duggan, Anthony Fernandez, Lil Leatham, Vanessa Levingston, John Mark Lucas, Debbie Meister, Heidi Myers, Patricia Ohmans, Terry Olsen, Allison Pitts, Steve Samuelson, Lisa Tabor, George Younes

City Staff Present: Christina Morrison, Jessica Rosenfeld, Sarah Zorn

Others Present: Anne White (District Councils Collaborative)

Absent: Anderson Cielto, Metric Giles, Veronica Burt, Andrea Lubov

There was some discussion at the beginning of the meeting about a rumor regarding the City's funding for an infill station as a part of LRT. City staff clarified that the City is fully intends to funding the first infill station, although due to the complex federal funding mechanism of the LRT project, that formal commitment of funding by the Saint Paul City Council is not anticipated until approximately February.

Anne White added that the Met Council is now in the process of completing an Environmental Assessment for the three stations, and a public hearing will be held on January 27th. More information is available here:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/MakingTracks/MakingTracksDec09.pdf>

Sarah Zorn gave some highlights of comments received at the November Roundtables (see the full list of roundtable comments here: <http://stpaul.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=11204>) and asked Steering Committee members to share their impressions. Some of the discussion included:

- Safety as a major issue at Western
- Need for further discussion around the "Area of Change" and the need for more land zoned for parking so that Victoria can better compete with other stations
- Lot of parallel issues to our land use planning, e.g. streetscape assessments
- Planning documents are good but we really have to follow through on development – enforce the community vision that is in these plans
- Develop a sense of community

- Create access from all sides (north, south, east, west)
- Building placement influences safety – place doors on major N/S streets instead of side yards so that the frontage is active and safe
- There is a big opportunity to change the form of the shopping center at Hamline
- Stability in the neighborhoods north of University – need sensitive infill development
- Western needs better access
- Integrate with existing character and have an authentic feel
- Impressed by level of engagement and debate by community members

Anne White noted that she recruited several community members to attend from Skyline Tower, but that she needed to also provide a Somali translator from the African Development Center. White also took the roundtable info back to Skyline Tower where the group shared the info with a larger audience.

Christina Morrison noted that the City does not currently have a certified Somali translator identified, but that they would work with community members to provide these translation services at future meetings.

Sarah Zorn stated that staff is using feedback to restructure the upcoming workshops to provide better flexibility to both business owners and residents. Jessica Rosenfeld noted that one concept is to have an additional day of working sessions in the form of a public open house on a Saturday.

Morrison presented the Parking Solutions report work, as well as some of the results of the parking solutions workshops held with business owners (access parking presentation here: <http://stpaul.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=11205>). There was a wealth of discussion surrounding various parking issues, including the following topics:

- Increasing the number of businesses (reducing gaps) along University so that customers will be willing to walk further to and from parking
- Utility issues including the potential for relocation, undergrounding, or removal of obsolete lines
- Importance of maintaining/improving alleys prior to construction (should influence staging)
- Encourage people to park in the right place – give them a place to be so that they don't seek residential parking
- Coordination with garbage haulers to reduce use and wear of alleys – could there be a time window when garbage could be picked up?
- Try these ideas out on pilot blocks as a demonstration
- Using recycling and waste management programs to help businesses save space and potentially money

The presentation on the Bike Walk plan was tabled until the next meeting.

The Steering Committee expressed an interest in having a meeting in January to discuss the Bike Walk Central Corridor Action Plan and the issue of zoning (as it pertains to parking), particularly along Aurora Avenue.

The date of the next Steering Committee meeting is January 27th, 2010.